

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/761,777

Examiner

Beniyam Menberu

Applicant(s)

MATSUDA, YOJI

Art Unit

2626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to December 21, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 3, 8, and 17-25.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 02 July 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

KA Williams
KIMBERLY WILLIAMS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Phillip Articola on August 25, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 3 should read as follows:

~~The~~ An image forming system ~~according to claim 1~~ constructed by a plurality of devices connected, comprising:
a first device having at least a read function to read an original document image, a setting function to set a processing condition with respect to image data thus read, and a transmission function to process and transmit the original document image read under the processing condition set by the setting function;
and
a second device connected to the first device and having a change setting function to change the processing condition set by the setting function of the first device, of the original document image received from the first device, upon receipt of the original document image transmitted from the first device, and an image output function to

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perform processing on the original document image under the processing condition changed by the change setting function, thereby to output an image,

wherein each of the first and second devices has a read function, a setting function, a transmission function, a receive function, a change setting function and an image output function, and further has a specification function to specify one of the first and second devices as a master, and the other one as a slave, and if one of the first and second devices is specified as a master, the read function, setting function, and transmission function are assigned to the device specified as the master, and the receive function, change setting function, and image output function are assigned to the other one of the first and second devices.

On Claim 8, line 1, "~~The~~ An image read ~~system according to~~" should read "The An image read ~~system according to~~".

On Claim 23, page 6, line 18, "device capable of printing mages," should read "device capable of printing images,".

On claim 25, line 1, "The image-processing system according to claim 1", should read "The image-processing system according to claim 23".

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Pavan Agarwal on September 2, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

On claim 24, line 1, "The image-processing system according to 23" should read "The image-processing system according to claim 23".

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Phillip Articola on September 13, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 18, line 2, "original document type information such as a" should read "original document type information including a".

Claim 18, line 3, "photographic original document, a text original document, or the like, image" should read "photographic original document or a text original document, image".

Claim 18, line 4, "attribute information such as adjustment value information for correcting" should read "attribute information including adjustment value information for correcting".

Claim 18, line 5, "gamma, and the like." should read "gamma." .

Claim 21, line 3, "such as a thick paper, color-dedicated paper, normal paper, OHP, or the like." should read "including a thick paper, color-dedicated paper, normal paper, or OHP".

Claim 24, line 8, "wherein the medium data includes thick-sheet data, ordinary-sheet data" should read "wherein the medium data includes thick-sheet data, ordinary-sheet data,".

Claim 24, line 9, "and the like, and the output formats include rotation output, double-side output," should read "and the output formats include rotation output, double-side output,".

Claim 25, line 3, "condition data, error data and output-medium data, and the like." should read "condition data, error data and output-medium data.".

Reasons for Allowance

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In addition to the teachings of the claims 3, 8, 17, and 23 as a whole, the closest prior art of record failed to teach or suggest:

A) an image forming system wherein each of the first and second devices has a read function, a setting function, a transmission function, a receive function, a change setting function and an image output function, and further has a specification function to specify one of the first and second devices as a master, and the other one as a slave, and if

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one of the first and second devices is specified as a master, the read function, setting function, and transmission function are assigned to the device specified as the master, and the receive function, change setting function, and image output function are assigned to the other one of the first and second devices.

B) individual read conditions are respectively set with respect to the devices specified as the slaves, by the setting function of the device specified as the master, and the read conditions and image forming conditions set by the device specified as the master are displayed in form of a list in the devices specified as the slaves.

C) first designating means for designating the device as master;

first receiving means for receiving printer-performance information from the other device capable of printing images and designate by the second designating means;

second notifying means for supplying image-inputting parameters and the printer-performance information to the other devices designated by the third designating means and having the input function, said image-inputting parameter being operating conditions;

second receiving means for receiving the image-inputting parameters and printer-performance information from any other device that has the input function, has been designated as a slave and has received the image-inputting parameters and printer-performance information from the second notifying means;

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updating means for updating the image-inputting parameters and printer-performance information received by the second receiving means, for any other device that has the input function and has been designated as a slave;

first transferring means for transferring all data to be printed, to any other device capable of printing mages, when the processing means finishes processing the all one-page image data for any other device that has the input function and has been designated as a slave,

wherein each of the devices having the input function and designated as slaves has:

third receiving means for receiving image-inputting parameters and printer-performance information from the master;

changing means for changing the image-inputting parameters and the printer performance information which have been registered by the registering means;

second transferring means for transferring to the master all one-page image data input by the inputting means;

fourth receiving means for receiving printer-performance information supplied from the master.

Other Prior Art Cited

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent No. 6714172 to Matsuzaki et al disclose display control system and method.

U.S. Patent No. 6212221 to Wakayama et al disclose communication apparatus.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Beniyam Menberu whose telephone number is (571) 272-7465. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM-4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly Williams can be reached on (571) 272-7471. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **571-273-8300**.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the customer service office whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600. The group receptionist number for TC 2600 is (571) 272-2600.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

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For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov/>.

Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the

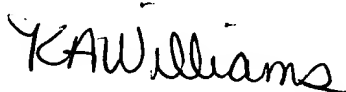
Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Patent Examiner

Beniyam Menberu

BM

09/16/2005

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "KAWilliams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**KIMBERLY WILLIAMS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**